

The Nazi Connection—Part III

Interpol Follows Jews, Ignores Their Killers

This is the last of three articles on Interpol, the private international police agency, and its affiliation with former Nazis, Gestapo members and SS agents. Baltimore is among the cities contributing to Interpol's information center.

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Staff Reporter

Interpol, the private international police agency, won't

lift a finger to track down Nazi war criminals.

But its files are filled with information on Jews it suspects of crimes.

The agency blames "the rules" for not tracking down Nazis — but Interpol itself drew up those rules.

Interpol acts as a middleman for 120 countries that cooperate in tracking down persons wanted by police. But it has historically refused to cooperate in any ef-

fort to track down Nazi war criminals, saying its own charter does not allow it to do so.

Its charter has not stopped it from making overt religious remarks in International Criminal Police Review, the agency's publication.

"Jewish offenders have a preference for offenses which require the use of craftiness," Interpol official Paul Marabuto wrote in the publication in April 1950.

"That explains why Interpol . . . has so many Jewish names in its files," he added.

Those remarks, and the agency's unflinching refusal to pursue Nazi war criminals, are not terribly surprising, though, considering the agency's background.

• Its president from 1968 to 1971 was Paul Dickopf, who until he fled Germany after four years in the Security Guards was SS officer 337259.

• Its president during the early war years was Reinhard Heydrich, head of the elite intelligence service of the SS, who on Jan. 20, 1942 summoned 15 top Nazis to Interpol headquarters, where the "final solution to the Jewish problem" — mass execution — was plotted.

Between Heydrich and Dickopf, recently declassified American and German documents show, Interpol's

top officials included former ranking members of the German Gestapo and the Nazi SS.

• Documents have recently been presented to Sen. Joseph Montoya's Treasury subcommittee — which funds Interpol — and to Rep. Edward Board, D-R.I., who has called for a General Accounting Office investigation.

The documents were pres-

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Interpol Follows Jews

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ented by the Church of Scientology's National Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice.

Montoya, a New Mexico Democrat, and Beard are apparently concerned that Interpol receives top-secret information from federal, state and local (including Baltimore) police and that Interpol has access to the FBI's vast National Criminal Information Center.

"We're wondering if there's been any invasion of privacy," a Treasury subcommittee spokesman said last week. "Who is getting all of this information? What does the U.S. get in return? And how much information does Interpol get?"

"And then there's the problem of its Nazi connections. Is Interpol a haven for Nazis? We're going to ask some very pointed questions."

Beard spokesman Morton Blender, who coincidentally covered the trial of Adolph Eichmann 14 years ago, said he was told:

"The whole idea of the Germans with Interpol was to make a Europe-wide police force, the core of which was the Nazis. It would be the Gestapo of the whole world, a secret police."

Treasury officials rejected the criticism, however, defending Interpol as a valuable mechanism for tracking down international criminal suspects.

In a statement to Sen. Montoya, Treasury Secretary William E. Simon said last week that Interpol's operations were discontinued during the war and that member countries rejoined only in 1946.

That coincides with the official Interpol line, but does not hold up with newly declassified war documents.

Simon denied that Interpol has direct access to the FBI information center, saying that any requests for information must first be run through the U.S. National Central Bureau.

That, Simon indicated, assures that no information can reach foreign hands that would endanger individual privacy or American security.

Simon listed about a dozen cases in which U.S. police took advantage of Interpol, and about a half-dozen cases in which foreign police did likewise.

The cases, which took place within the past few years, involve such matters as murder, drug trafficking, deportation and illegal passports.

None concerned pursuit of Nazi war criminals.

The Interpol charter says the agency does not pursue "political" criminals, prompting a Washington critic to say last week, "What they're saying is that genocide is political."

Interpol's stance on non-pursuit of Nazis prompted the American Jewish Congress to charge the agency with lending "an unexpected sense of safety" to such criminals in hiding.

Yet Interpol is recognized by the United Nations as a legitimate (though private) intergovernmental organization.

As Simon said last week, "This special arrangement gives both organizations broad opportunities to take part in discussions on matters of common interest."

The UN link — established in 1971 — gave Interpol something else — added credibility.

For an organizations whose roots were planted — and flourished — in Nazi Germany, that was a major step forward.

End of series.